

Labor and the Liquor Question



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The Labor Party has a voice to-day as never before in settling our big national questions. What attitude does it take to the Liquor Traffic?

John B. Lennon

Who is treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, said "that for sixteen years he had handled millions of dollars of working men's funds, and his experience convinced him that 'Saloons' are the greatest enemies of 'Labor' now existing in 'Society.'"

Goldwin Smith

Says, "It is too clear that the rapid extension of the 'Saloon' drinking is threatening the very life of this community; that it is bringing great masses of our working classes into a self-imposed bondage more complete and more degrading than slavery itself; that it is not only filling the present with unspeakable misery and vice, but blighting the prospect of 'labor' for the future."

A Canadian Judge

"Thirty percent. of London population is unable to earn a living and in poverty through drink. About 4,000,000 people in the U.S. are in like condition. With a growing population and a growing drink bill, a similar problem faces Canada."

Hon. Chauncey M. Depew

The president of the New York Central Railway Company speaking to the workmen said, "It has been a study with me to mark the boys who started in every grade of life with myself to see what becomes of them. Some of them have become clerks, merchants, manufacturers, lawyers and doctors. It is remarkable that every one of those that drank is dead, not one living at my age. Everyone that proved a wreck or wrecked his family, did so from rum and from no other cause." Such a message speaks for itself.

James Simpson of Toronto

Vice President of the Trades and Labor Congress, says: "In several cases that have come under my observation, trusted men have proven false to their fellow trades unionists, and the monetary interests of their organizations through their love of intoxicating liquors. Speaking generally there is a strong preference for temperance men. The theory that the best mechanics are found among

the intemperate classes has been thoroughly exploded. Trades and labor organizations cannot ignore the fact that the intemperate trades unionists are a weakness to their unions. The temperate man stimulates loyalty, inspires confidence, maintains dignity and exhausts the vitality of opposing forces."

Marshall Field & Co. declares :

"We will not to our knowledge, place a young man who drinks in our business and, even though a young man should apply for a position, whose ability and other all round qualifications would seem to fit him for the position, if we knew or discovered that he was a drinking man, we should decline to consider his application. Any man in our employ who acquires the habit of drink, even though moderately, is marked down in our estimation and unless we can remove from him this serious fault and show him his error, we feel compelled to do without his service. A great barrier to success in business is "Drink."

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers

"Thirty-five members were expelled for getting drunk in 1909, and their shame was publicly proclaimed in the journal. When a man has been duly convicted of drinking and punished according to the laws of the order, the facts are laid before the proper authorities on the road that employs him and his discharge is demanded.

The brotherhood further states "there is no telling when a man who gets drunk off duty may take a notion to get drunk on duty ; and we do not intend to take any chances on having a drunken man tearing through the country at 60 miles an hour, endangering the lives of others. It is unfair both to the other men employed in the company and to their patrons. The man thus discharged can never be employed on a railroad again." (Century)

To wipe out the "Bars" is to befriend the workingman.



